

REMARKS

In the present amendment, claims 1-8, 12 and 14 have been amended, claims 9-11 and 15-20 cancelled, and new claims 21-30 added, whereby claims 1-8, 12-14, and 21-30 are pending.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to more specifically define the substituent R of compound (1). Furthermore, claims 1-8 and 14 have been rewritten in form of method claims.

The new method claims 21-30 are fully supported by the originally filed specification, no new matter has been added.

Telephone Interview on March 27, 2007

Applicants express appreciation for the courtesies extended by the Examiner during a March 27, 2007 telephone call with Applicants' representative Sean Myers-Payne.

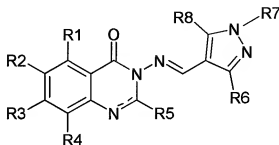
During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed amending claims 1 and 12 to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 13 with respect to the substituent R of compound (1), as well as four additional structurally defined substituents, which are shown in the original disclosure, e.g., at pages 12 and 15. The Examiner was asked if Group I of the Restriction Requirement may be broadened to include these four specific substituents, which have a common structural feature of an imino group (i.e., $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$) in the same manner as the corresponding substituent of the compounds defined in Group I. The Examiner indicated that the amendment would be acceptable, and he would review

the Restriction Requirement upon presentation of the written response. The Examiner also indicated that the newly presented method claims might be rejoineable.

Restriction Requirement

The Office restricts examination to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372:

- I. Claims 1-20, allegedly drawn to a product of the formula:



wherein the dashed line represents either a single or double bond.

- II. Claims 1-20, in part, allegedly drawn to a product claimed but not encompassed in Group I.

Election

In order to be responsive to the requirement for restriction, Applicants elect the invention set forth in Group I, with traverse.

For the reason set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is moot in view of the present amendments of the claims and should be withdrawn, whereby an action on the merits of all the pending claims is warranted.

Traverse

Notwithstanding the election of Group I in order to be responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement.

The Examiner alleges that Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, asserting that the common feature linking all the claims is anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,429,311 to Gao, hereafter “GAO”.

Applicants respectfully note that, in an attempt to advance prosecution of the application and without expressing agreement or acquiescence with the restriction requirement, the claims have been amended to more specifically claim the compounds of the present invention. The compounds of the amended claims are clearly not anticipated by GAO.

Accordingly, the compounds of the presently claimed invention are all belonging to the same Group, which makes a restriction moot. Unity of invention for all claims is present.

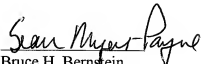
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the requirement for restriction, and withdraw the same so as to give an examination on the merits on all the claims pending in this application.

Favorable consideration with early allowance of all pending claims is most earnestly requested.

If the Examiner has any questions, or wishes to discuss this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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